GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2093
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000
GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGE HINDI
JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Embassies which are celebrating the Golden Jubilee Year of Official Language Hindi;

(b) whether some Embassies are not celebrating this Golden Jubilee year of Official Language Hindi;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the measures being taken by his Ministry for progressive use of Official Language Hindi;

(e) whether the Government propose to make any assessment of the progress made in the use of Official Language Hindi in the Embassies and Consulates;

(f) if so, whether the Official Language Hindi in the Embassies treated at par with any other foreign language; andg) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)
(a), (b) & (c) All Indian Missions abroad have been instructed to celebrate the Golden Jubilee year of declaration of Hindi as Official Language. They have been instructed to organize special programmes for the promotion and propagation of Hindi in their Missions. The Missions and Posts where Hindi lovers or Hindi speaking people are in great numbers have been given an increased allocation of 20% over the last year to celebrate the Golden Jubilee Year of Declaration of Hindi as Official Language.Accordingly, all the Missions are actively organizing suitable programmes.
(d), (e), (f) & (g) Ministry of External Affairs is making all efforts for the promotion and propagation of Hindi in its offices as well as in Missions/Posts abroad. The Heads of Missions/Posts read President`s messages for Independence and Republic Days both in Hindi and English. Sadbhavana and Quomi Ekta Diwas pledges are taken by the officialsin Hindi. Annual programmes issued by Official Language Department are sent to the Missions for compliance.Instructions have been issued to the Missions to increase original correspondence in Hindi and to ensure compliance of provision of Official Language Rule 5 i.e. replies to the letters received in Hindi should be in Hindi only. Hindi software have already been supplied to 60 Missions and efforts are being made to supply at least one Hindi software to other Missions/Posts.Ministry`s supply of Hindi books to the Missions for gift/donation to the universities/colleges/voluntary organizations or associations engaged in promotion and propagation of Hindi abroad normally amounts to about Rs.10 lakhs per year. Ministry is constantly monitoring the use of Hindi through the Quarterly Progress Reports received from the Missions and Posts.
The Official Language Hindi enjoysa special status in our Missions and Posts. All the name plates, sign boards, letter heads, inscription on the envelopes and other items of stationery are in Hindi, English and the local official language.